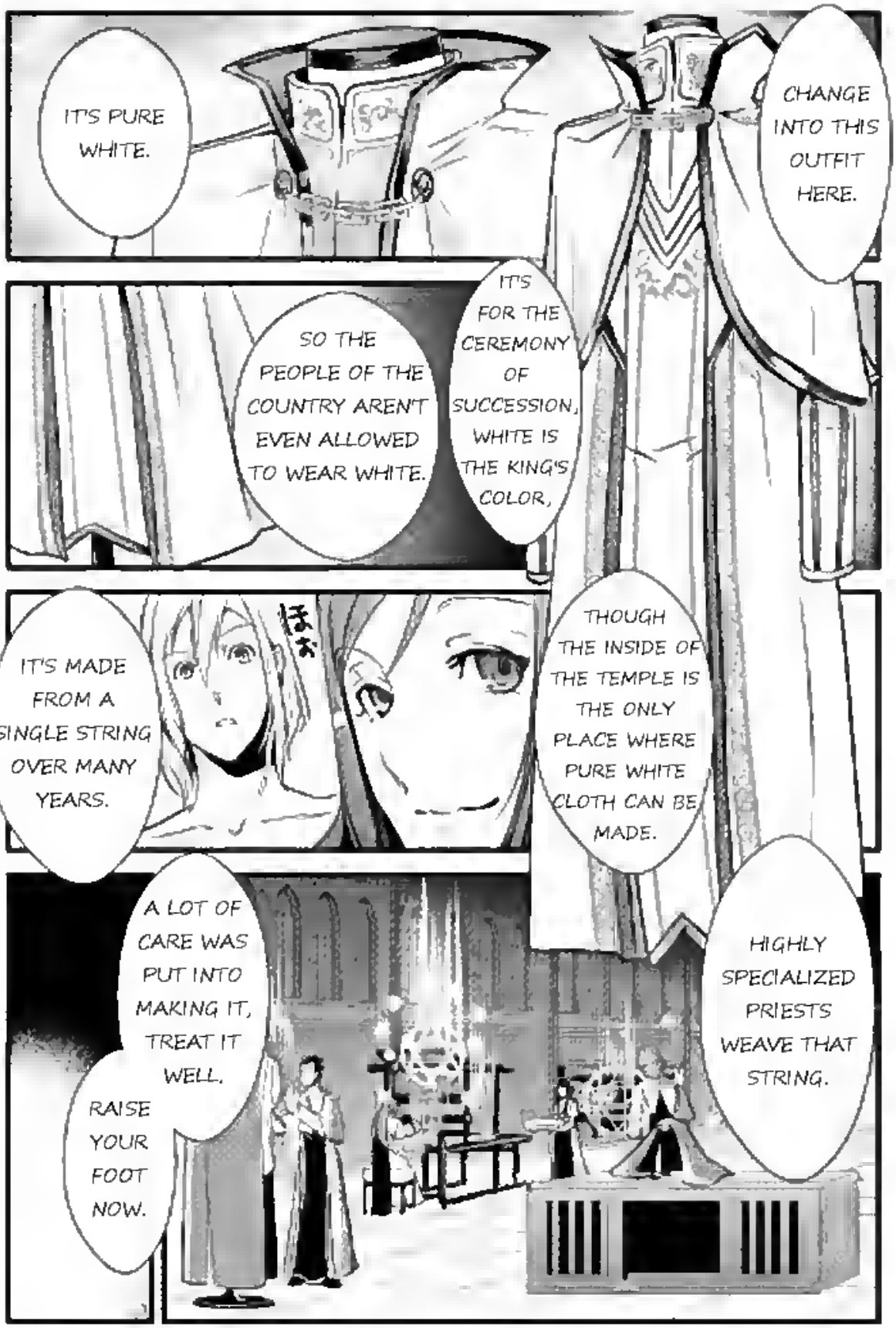
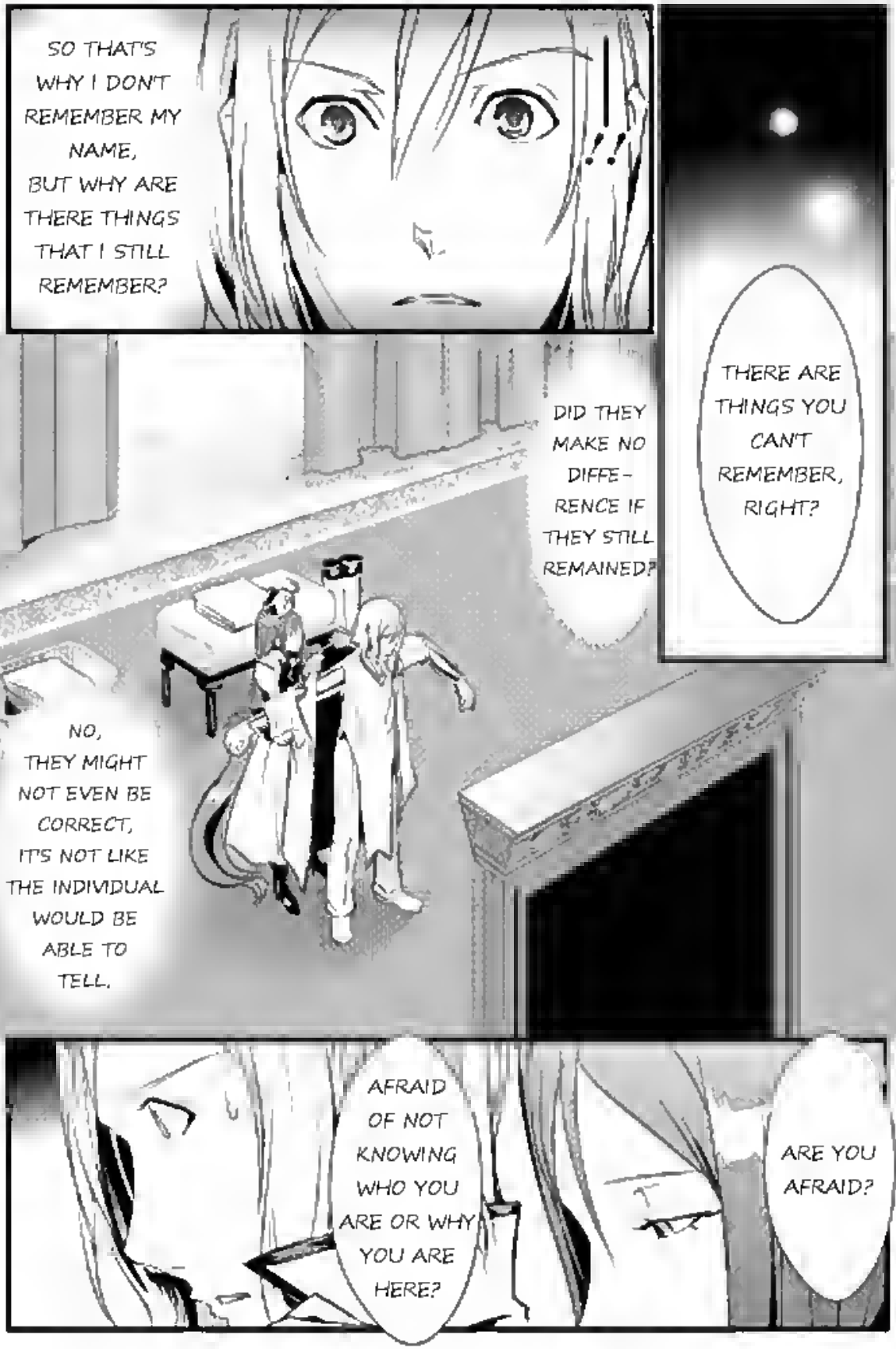
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO LOOK AT YOUR SCRAWNY BODY!
QUIT COMPLAINING! A BEAUTY IS HELPING YOU GET DRESSED!
NO, IF ANYTHING THAT MAKES IT MORE EMBARRASS-ING...
OH, AREN'T YOU HAPPY? BUT THE MAN WHO IS TO BE THE KING SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE A WOMAN.
HAN-DLE?!
自分が信じられない
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO BECOME THE KING...
GOT YOU!
白の皇国物語 第四回
原作：白沢戌亥
漫画：不二まーゆ


IT'S PURE WHITE.
CHANGE INTO THIS OUTFIT HERE.
SO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY AREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO WEAR WHITE.
IT'S FOR THE CEREMONY OF SUCCESSION, WHITE IS THE KING'S COLOR,
IT'S MADE FROM A SINGLE STRING OVER MANY YEARS.
THOUGH THE INSIDE OF THE TEMPLE IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE PURE WHITE CLOTH CAN BE MADE.
A LOT OF CARE WAS PUT INTO MAKING IT, TREAT IT WELL.
RAISE YOUR FOOT NOW.
HIGHLY SPECIALIZED PRIESTS WEAVE THAT STRING.

I CAN CHANGE ON MY OWN...
NO, LIKE I SAID,
HAA...
WHY IS SHE...
WHA-

DID YOUR PREVIOUS WORLD NOT HAVE MAGIC?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT HURTS. IT'S THE FINISHING TOUCH FOR THE CEREMONY.
THAT SCARED ME...
THE LORDS OF THE 4 WORLDS TOLD ME.
OF COURSE I DO.
OF COURSE NO- WHAT?! YOU KNOW I'M FROM ANOTHER WORLD?
WHEN REINCARNATING INTO OUR WORLD, IT SEEMS SOME OF YOUR MEMORIES AND KNOWLEDGE WILL BE CHANGED FOR THE SAKE OF COMPATIBILITY.
BUT I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE YOU'RE FROM OR WHAT YOU'RE LIKE.
APPEARANCE, NAME, MEMORIES, MANNER OF SPEECH, COMMON SENSE, AND IN YOUR CASE, YOU WERE MADE TO BE A "WHITE"...

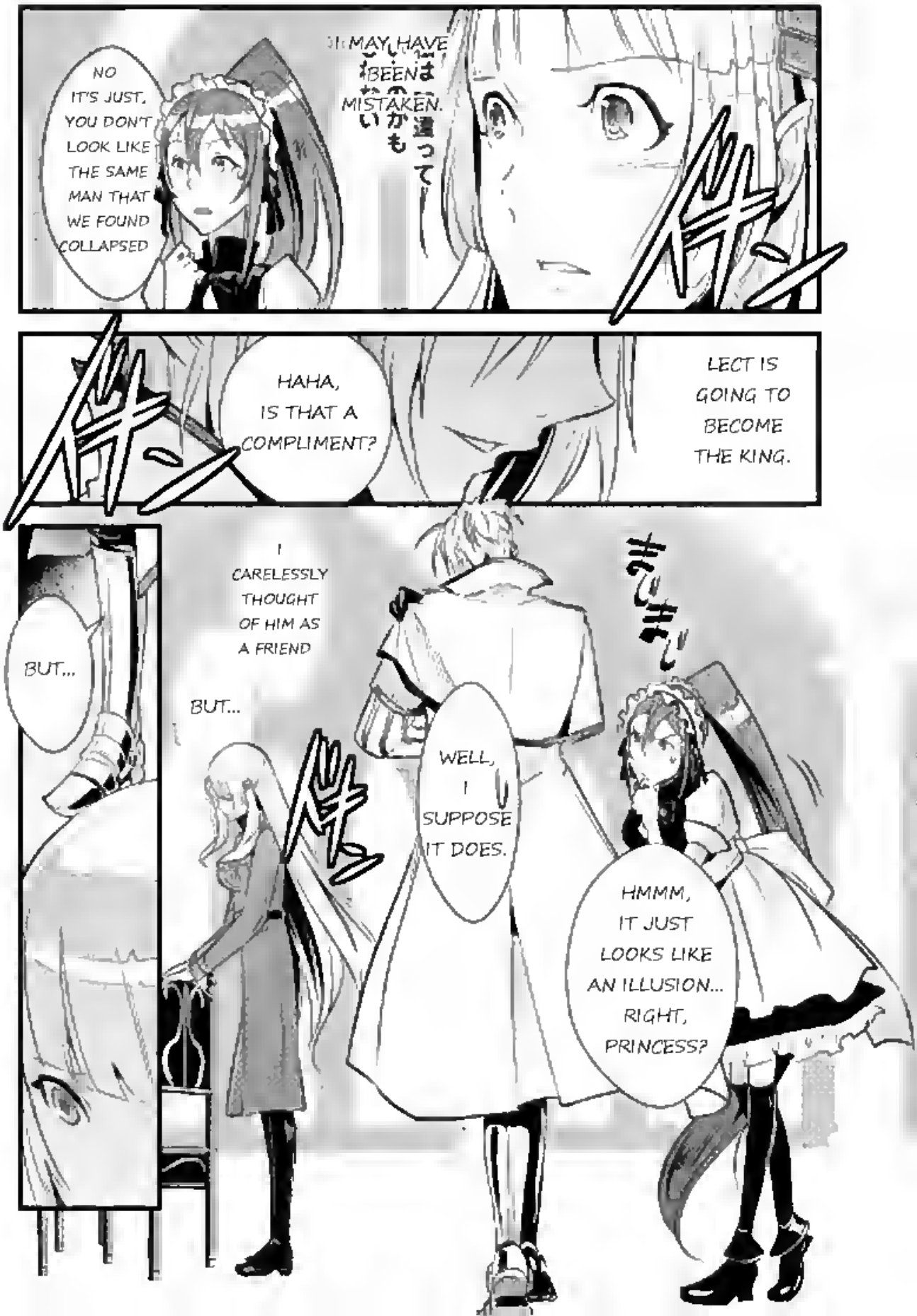

SO THAT'S WHY I DON'T REMEMBER MY NAME, BUT WHY ARE THERE THINGS THAT I STILL REMEMBER?
!!
THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T REMEMBER, RIGHT?
DID THEY MAKE NO DIFFE- RENCE IF THEY STILL REMAINED?
NO, THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN BE CORRECT, IT'S NOT LIKE THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL.
AFRAID OF NOT KNOWING WHO YOU ARE OR WHY YOU ARE HERE?
ARE YOU AFRAID?

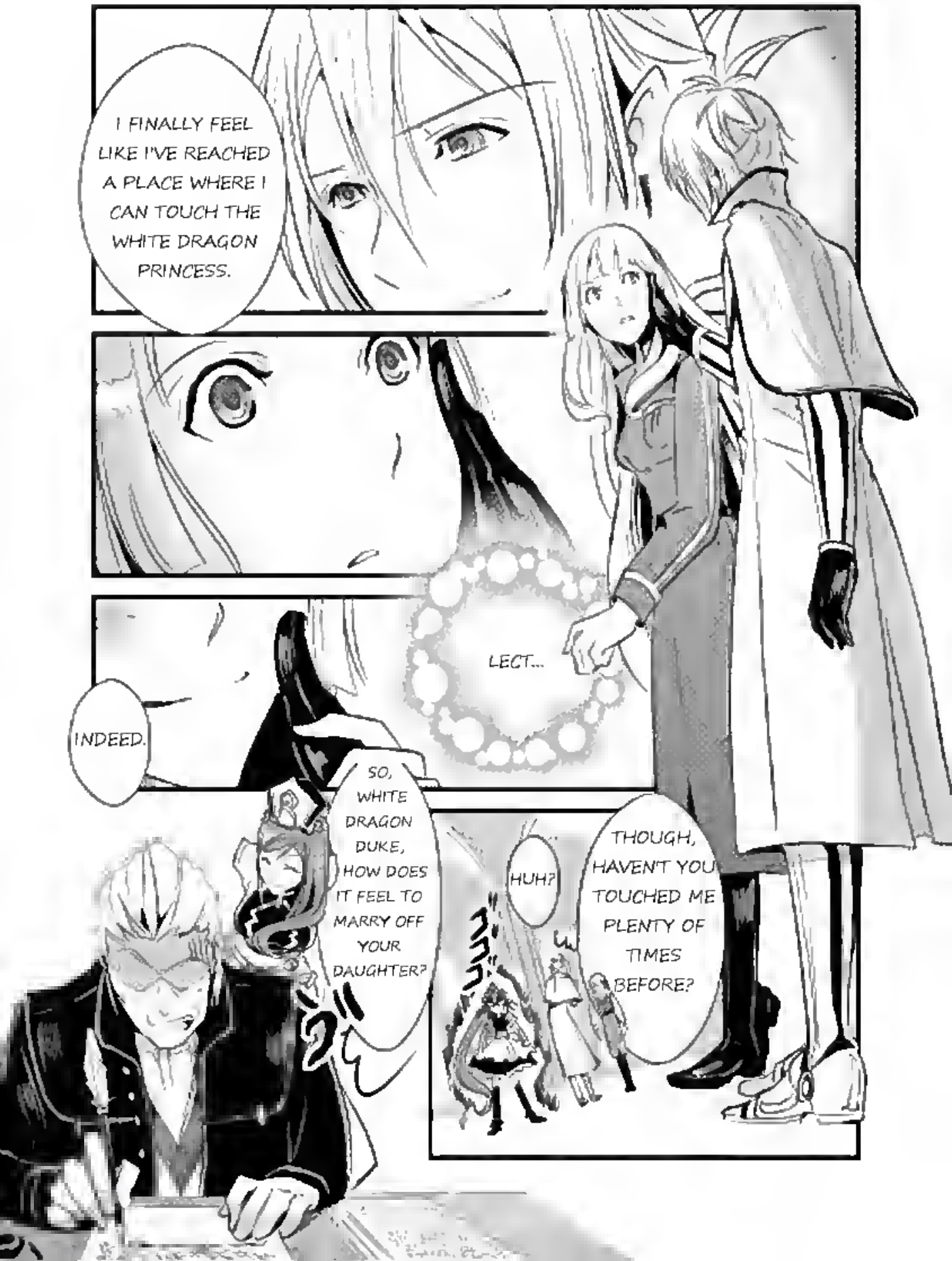
MY FAMILY WAS POOR AND WHEN I WAS 16 I WENT TO THE GREAT TEMPLE'S ACADEMY AS A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT.
I WAS LIKE THAT BACK WHEN MY PARENTS DIED.
I WAS STUDYING HARD, AND MY PARENTS JUST DIED OF A PLAGUE... IT SEEMS THEY COULDN'T GET ANY MEDICINE.
MY FIRST DUTY AS A PRIEST WAS TO ATTEND TO MY PARENTS' FUNERAL.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MEANING THERE COULD BE TO MY LIFE.
BUT NOW I LIVE TO PROTECT THE TEMPLE'S SHRINE MAIDEN, SHE'S THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT, MY LITTLE SISTER.
I DOUBT SHE EVEN REMEMBERS OUR PARENTS SO I WANT TO PROTECT HER
SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY TO THE TEMPLE WHEN SHE WAS 3 AS A POTENTIAL SHRINE MAIDEN, SO SHE HAS NO MEMORIES OF OUR FAMILY...

MY PREVIOUS LIFE WAS FILLED WITH RESIGNATION, I EVEN GAVE UP LIVING.
AFTER THE RITUAL IS OVER, AND YOU'RE THE KING, YOU'LL HAVE TO PROTECT FAR MORE PEOPLE.
DO YOU WISH TO RETURN TO YOUR WORLD?
SO I HOLD NO ATTACHMENT TO MY PREVIOUS WORLD AND MY MEMORIES OF IT.
IT'S AFTER CONSTANTLY GIVING UP ON EVERYTHING THAT I ARRIVED HERE.
I CURRENTLY BELIEVE IT WAS A GOOD THING I GAVE UP.

AFTER ALL, IT ALLOWED ME TO BE HERE WITH EVERYONE.
GREAT TEMPLE PARLOR
THE MASTER SEEMS AWFULLY BUSY.
BY BECOMING THE CROWN PRINCE, LECTIVAL WILL GET RID OF THE NOBLES THAT HAVE LOST THE PEOPLES' SUPPORT AND FORCE THE ALLIED FORCES TO RETREAT.
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE BEST OPTION...
WE MUST ACHIEVE THAT.
HE HASN'T EVEN TOUCHED HIS TEA.
ガタッ

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
AH, I KNEW IT...
DOES IT LOOKS WEIRD?


NO IT'S JUST, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE SAME MAN THAT WE FOUND COLLAPSED
MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.
HAHA, IS THAT A COMPLIMENT?
LECT IS GOING TO BECOME THE KING.
BUT...
I CARELESSLY THOUGHT OF HIM AS A FRIEND
BUT...
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT DOES.
HMMM, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE AN ILLUSION... RIGHT, PRINCESS?


I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'VE REACHED A PLACE WHERE I CAN TOUCH THE WHITE DRAGON PRINCESS.
LECT...
INDEED.
SO, WHITE DRAGON DUKE, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO MARRY OFF YOUR DAUGHTER?
HUH?
THOUGH, HAVEN'T YOU TOUCHED ME PLENTY OF TIMES BEFORE?

I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT MY PLAN DOESN'T ROB MY DAUGHTER OF HER SMILE.
YOUR GRACE.
I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY I'D FEEL LIKE THIS ABOUT MY DAUGHTER WOULD COME...
ABOUT THIS RITUAL,
I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE "INFORMAL".
W-
THE HEART AND EYES OF A THOUSAND YEAR OLD DRAGON(ME) SHOULD INCREASE THE ODDS OF SUCCESS.
I KNOW FULL WELL I'M ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I'M PREPARED TO GIVE UP MY LIFE.
WHAT?

AND OUR ALLIES MIGHT ABANDON US AT ANY MOMENT.
THE ENEMY'S REIN-FORCE-MENTS ARE CLOSE,
WE NEED TO INSTATE A NEW KING AND TAKE BACK THE CAPITAL QUICKLY!
WE WON'T MAKE IT IN THE STANDARD 26 DAYS.
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT AS WELL, YOUR GRACE, THAT IF THE ALLIED FORCES CAPTURE THE CAPITAL, THIS COUNTRY IS DONE FOR!
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT THE "INFORMAL" RITE IS JUST A THEORY, EVEN IF YOU GIVE UP YOUR LIFE, WE CAN'T DO IT IN A DAY.
WHITE DRAGON DUKE...
NO, I'LL DO IT.
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, THAT YOUNG MAN-

!
BECAUSE OF THESE TWO, I AM HERE, EVEN THOUGH I WAS PREPARED TO BE SACRIFICED.
I WON'T DIE WITHOUT AT LEAST TRYING.
LECTIVAL...
GIVING UP SIMPLY MEANS FINDING ANOTHER ROUTE.
ABAN-DON-MENT MEANS THROWING AWAY MY FUTURE.
I'VE DECIDED, NO MATTER HOW ANXIOUS OR AFRAID I MAY BE,
EVEN IF I GIVE UP, I WON'T ABANDON THIS.
EVEN IF I MUST GIVE UP MY LIFE, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN.

LILI-CIA?!
パチパチ
なお
AS YOU MAY KNOW, THIS IS MY SISTER, LILICIA.
ELDER SISTER, IS THIS MASTER LECTIVAL?
JUST NOT THAT, IS SHE…
いや、ただ
THE SHRINE MAIDEN! IS SHE BLIND?
神殿の巫女か…
?

MUTE さながら WELL!? のか!?
YES, THAT IS LECTIVAL.
ODD, CAN HE NOT HEAR HER? THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY... ARE THEY SIMPLY INCOMPATIBLE?
AH, UHM...
HER CLEAR VOICE... 凛とした声...
SHE JUST ASKED IF YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
YES, I AM LILICIA, THE SHRINE MAIDEN OF THE TEMPLE.
BECAUSE OF MY DUTY, I AM UNABLE TO SEE OR SPEAK.
AH, I'M RELIEVED, WE CAN TALK
DUTY?
THE CEREMONY. LIKE KINGS, SHRINE MAIDENS ARE BORN,
AND THEY LIVE IN THE TEMPLE TO FULFILL THAT ONE DUTY.

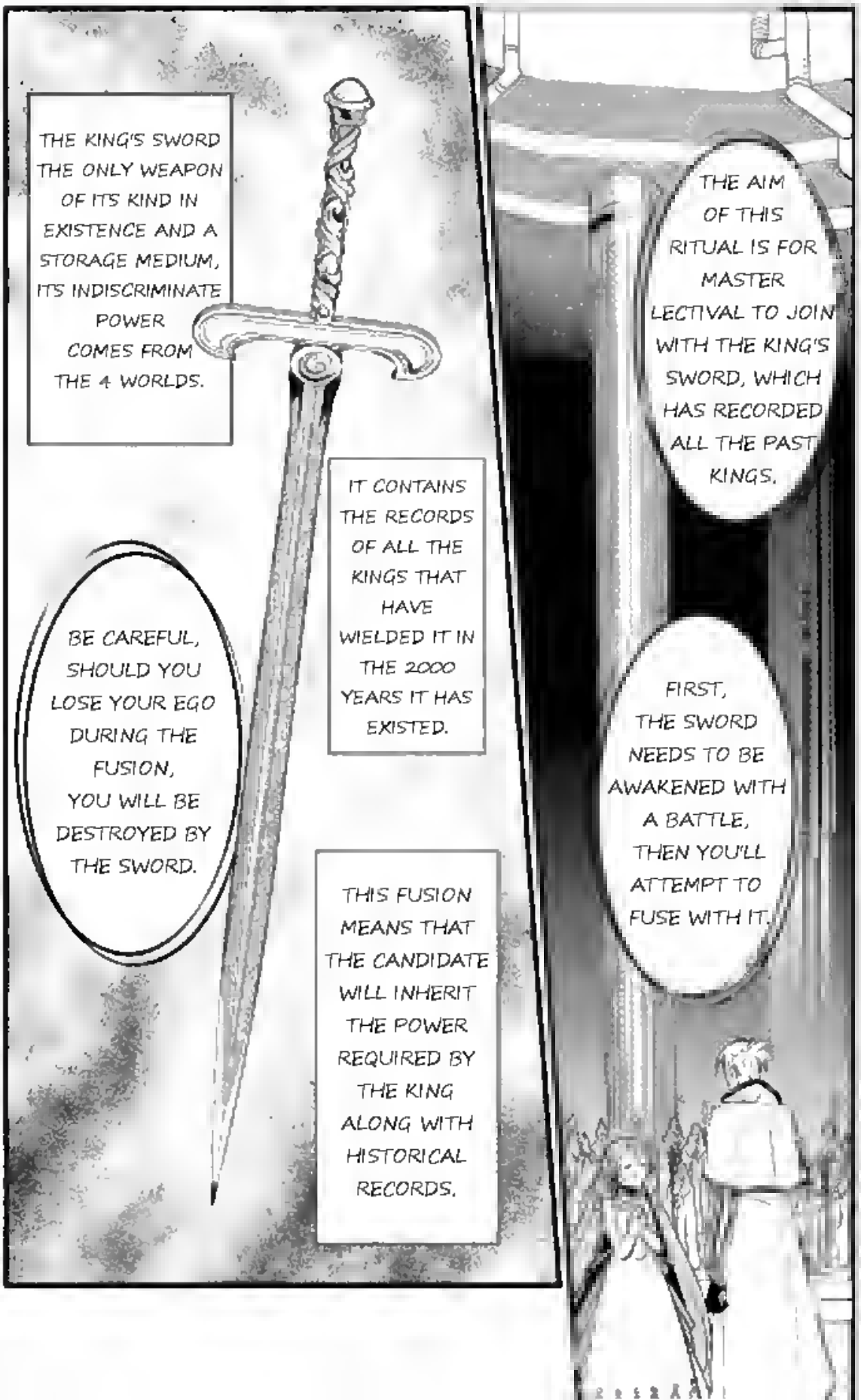
SO MY SISTER WAS BORN FOR THIS DAY, FOR YOU.
SHRINE MAIDEN
THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN THE TEMPLE. LIKE THE "WHITE", THERE IS JUST ONE, AND SHE'LL SPEND MOST OF HER LIFE IN THE TEMPLE.
SHOULD SHE SAFELY ACCOMPLISH HER DUTY WITH THE SUCCESSION CEREMONY, SHE CAN LEAVE THE TEMPLE.
UNLIKE ME, SHE'S A GENTLE GIRL, ISN'T SHE? I'LL BE ENTRUSTING YOU WITH HER AS YOUR BRIDE.
HUH?
ELDER SISTER, IT IS TIME.
SO DO YOUR BEST, BOY!
UM,

PL-PLEASE TAKE CARE OF LECT.
I'M OFF.
WE'RE JUST ASSISTANTS, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE STRENGTH OF HIS WILL.

ALL YOU CAN CHOOSE IS TO EITHER ADVANCE OR QUIT.
WHETHER OR NOT THE TWO OF YOU FULFILL YOUR DUTY AND LEAVE ALL COMES DOWN TO THE STRENGTH OF YOUR WILL.
23 PEOPLE.
MILEIDIA, HOW MANY HAVE PASSED HERE AND FAILED?
ONCE YOU OPEN THIS DOOR, THERE'S NO GOING BACK, ARE YOU READY?
YES.

I WAS AWAITING YOU, MASTER LECTIVAL.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE BEGS, THE SHRINE MAIDEN AND ARCHBISHOP CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
大主教猊下に ころで
THE PRINCESS SHOULD KNOW IT WELL,
SHE FEELS THAT STRONGLY ABOUT THAT MAN...
YET,
LECT...


THE KING'S SWORD THE ONLY WEAPON OF ITS KIND IN EXISTENCE AND A STORAGE MEDIUM, ITS INDISCRIMINATE POWER COMES FROM THE 4 WORLDS.
IT CONTAINS THE RECORDS OF ALL THE KINGS THAT HAVE WIELDED IT IN THE 2000 YEARS IT HAS EXISTED.
BE CAREFUL, SHOULD YOU LOSE YOUR EGO DURING THE FUSION, YOU WILL BE DESTROYED BY THE SWORD.
THIS FUSION MEANS THAT THE CANDIDATE WILL INHERIT THE POWER REQUIRED BY THE KING ALONG WITH HISTORICAL RECORDS.
THE AIM OF THIS RITUAL IS FOR MASTER LECTIVAL TO JOIN WITH THE KING'S SWORD, WHICH HAS RECORDED ALL THE PAST KINGS.
FIRST, THE SWORD NEEDS TO BE AWAKENED WITH A BATTLE, THEN YOU'LL ATTEMPT TO FUSE WITH IT.

LET'S GO OUTSIDE,
LILICIA,
IF WE SUCCEED WITH THIS RITUAL,
TOGETHER WITH MILEIDIA.
YES.
MASTER LECTIVAL...

MANA REPLENISH-MENT COMPLETE. CANDIDATE, ARCHBISHOP, COME FORTH!
あれが…
THAT'S...
LET'S START.
THE KING'S SWORD.